

Mayor Greg Nickels

THREE YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS





When Mayor Greg Nickels took office in January of 2002, he started by focusing on the basic services that would give people back their confidence in City government. He worked to keep people safe, to fill potholes, and to make sure that when a citizen called the City with a problem, a human being answered the phone.

Over the past three years, the City has moved from the basics to tackle the possible. We prioritized our spending and balanced the budget. We gave new hope to neighborhoods that had been neglected by City government. We made City departments more responsive so that taxpayers and businesses don't fear doing business with the City. And we made sure that every public celebration, protest or gathering would be safe for our citizens to attend.

We re-connected the City to its people, and the people responded. Seattle voters supported three important levies: renewal of the housing levy, which will provide more opportunities for affordable housing and increase homeownership; renewal of the Families and Education levy, which will help close the academic achievement gap; and the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy, which will bring the City's fire response facilities into the 21st century.

Here are a few examples of the progress on the Mayor's four priorities:

"It's all coming together with progress on light rail, monorail, and replacing the Viaduct." GETTING SEATTLE MOVING

- **Replacing the Viaduct and seawall.** Recognizing the urgency of this project, Mayor Nickels led a coalition winning approval of \$177 million in state funding to replace the State Route 99/Alaskan Way Viaduct and seawall. He also worked with Sen. Patty Murray to secure \$4.77 million in federal dollars. In 2004, City, state, federal officials and community leaders announced that a tunnel would replace the viaduct.
- **Building light rail.** The City issued permits to clear a south Seattle site for a Sound Transit Light Rail operations and maintenance base in 2002. In 2003, Sound Transit broke ground and an additional \$75 million in federal funds was secured, marking the start of a 21st century transportation system and the creation of hundreds of jobs. In 2004, construction began on the first phase of Link Light Rail in Rainier Valley, Beacon Hill, SODO and downtown.
- **Getting Bus Rapid Transit going.** To improve travel along the Aurora Avenue corridor, 14 signals were upgraded to allow bus priority at congested intersections, better bus shelters were installed in improved locations, and \$4.4 million was secured for 2005 enhancements.
- Improving downtown parking. In 2004, new parking meters accepting credit and debit cards were installed in downtown Seattle and SPD cracked down on drivers who fraudulently use disabled parking placards to generate more parking opportunities for honest drivers.
- **Keeping kids safe.** Seventeen schools received either bright signs or flashing beacons to remind drivers to slow down near schools.
- **Fixing potholes & maintaining streets.** In 2002, the City established a pothole hot line (684-ROAD), and the Pothole Rangers now fill reported holes within 48 hours. Nearly 64 12-foot-wide lane miles of paving and other resurfacing was completed in 2004, the highest level of lane-miles paved since 1998.
- **Helping commuters.** In 2004, the City kept commuters moving by synchronizing signals at 103 locations around Seattle and launching a new online service providing real-time driving conditions.



- Boulevard with a Narrow Valley Street" was selected as the preferred alternative to untangle Mercer. The two-way corridor accommodates a growing South Lake Union neighborhood, improves access to the Seattle Center and connects east and west neighborhoods.
- Moving forward on South Lake Union Streetcar. In 2004, the City advanced the South Lake Union Streetcar with a commitment from nearby landowners for \$25 million and more than \$10 million from other sources.
- Moving freight. The City worked with local industry to identify
 and dissolve freight-traffic bottlenecks. In addition, damaged and
 missing truck route signs were replaced and new signs were posted
 to keep people and freight moving throughout the city.
- **Taking care of bridges.** In 2004, the City finalized the design of the new north and south approaches for the Fremont Bridge

so that neighborhood traffic improvement and bridge construction begins this summer. The 73-year-old Princeton Bridge was replaced in 2002 and five neighborhoods were connected with the Sand Point Way corridor and adjacent businesses. Two major bridges, Cowen Park Bridge and the 20th Avenue Northeast Bridge over Ravenna Park, received fresh coats of protective paint.

- **Building a new Monorail.** The Mayor advocated for the Monorail, helped win voter support for the project, and sent legislation to the City Council to accelerate design and construction while protecting the City's interest in the project.
- **Investing in clean and green transportation.** The City now has more than 200 advanced technology and alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet, and has helped to reduce air pollution by purchasing fewer and cleaner vehicles.
- Funding for transportation projects. In the past three years, Congress has passed appropriations bills that included projects sought by the Mayor and secured by Sen. Patty Murray: \$4.77 million for the Alaskan Way Viaduct, \$4 million for the South Lake Union streetcar, and \$3.5 million for Intelligent Transportation Systems, which will improve freight and transit mobility. The City also secured funds from the Puget Sound Regional Council for Spokane Street Viaduct widening, South Lake Union streetcar, 35th Avenue Northeast improvements, Westlake Transportation Hub, Burke-Gilman Trail extension, surface street paving and Phinney/Fremont/North 50th street area improvements.

The Alaskan Way Tunnel

On Monday, Dec. 6, 2004, Mayor Nickels joined federal, state, and other local officials to announce the decision to replace the deteriorating Alaskan Way Viaduct with a tunnel.

The viaduct – severely damaged in the 2001 Nisqually earthquake – is one of the state's most important transportation corridors, carrying 110,000 vehicles a day and more than 10 million tons of freight per year. It connects marine, air, industrial, manufacturing, and warehousing operations along Seattle's waterfront corridor and is key a healthy regional economy.

Over the course of two years, the City held more than 250 meetings and received 4,000 comments from the public about how to replace the viaduct. Two themes emerged: People didn't want traffic to get any worse, and they wanted a waterfront that was cleaner, less noisy, less harmful to our environment, and more accessible and more enjoyable for all.

"We are making Seattle the most-prepared city in America." KEEPING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE

- Creating a safer Seattle. Seattle is one of the safest big cities in the nation. In 2004, Seattle had its lowest level of homicides in 39 years: 24. Seattle's overall crime rate decreased by 7 percent from 2003 and violent crime has decreased 12 percent since 2000. By comparison, in 2004, Washington, D.C., lost 193 lives to violent crime and Baltimore lost 278.
- Reducing criminal activity in neighborhoods. The City reduced criminal activity among high-risk and chronic habitual offenders by increasing officers' presence in problem areas. Bicycle patrols in Cal Anderson Park reduced 911 calls from 680 calls to 459 in one year, and officer-initiated stops rose from 897 to 1,200 in the same time period. More than 20 transient encampments were removed from Freeway Park.
- Increasing accountability for police and residents. The City outfitted 80 patrol cars with video cameras, giving SPD the ability to record patrol stops, providing more accountability and safety.
- Improving fire facilities. With the passage of the \$167-million Fire Facilities levy in November 2003, Seattle began construction in 2004 of a new Joint Training Facility for the Seattle Public Utilities and Fire and Transportation departments. Design began on two new fireboats and the Fire Station 10 Replacement Project, which will include the Emergency Operations Center and the Fire Alarm Center. Over the next eight years, the levy proceeds will also be used to renovate 32 fire stations throughout Seattle.
- Increasing emergency preparedness. The Mayor created an Emergency Preparedness Bureau to better coordinate critical functions necessary to manage emergencies. In May 2003, Seattle participated in TOPOFF2, the largest international anti-terrorism exercise in history.
- **Securing homeland security grants.** Between 2002 and 2004, Seattle received approximately \$36 million in federal security grants. This grant money is being used to secure facilities, equip and train first responders, improve communications and more.
- **Improving training.** SPD created a new three-day training program for sergeants and first-line supervisors, and expanded the number of officers and sergeants who participated in the "street skills" training program.
- **Increasing terrorist training.** Seattle firefighters participated in Weapons of Mass Destruction Rescue training. Funded by a federal grant, this training emphasized working in large-scale disasters and allowed firefighters hands-on work with rescue tools.
- **Recognizing excellence.** In 2003, SPD received national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Of the 25 largest cities in the nation, SPD is one of only four to win recognition for its policing, procedures and training.
- **Investigating crime scenes.** In 2004, SPD established a pilot Crime Scene Investigation Unit. These highly skilled and trained detectives are dedicated to processing serious crime scenes, and have processed more than 100 such scenes in just six months.
- **Protecting victims of domestic violence.** Seattle supported state legislation providing services and financial assistance for domestic-violence victims, which includes providing financial restitution to sexual-assault victims from inmate funds and wages; allowing early termination of rental agreements for domestic-violence, sexual-assault, or stalking victims; and protecting victims from discrimination by landlords and screening services.



Public Safety Town Halls

One of Mayor Nickels' top priorities is keeping our neighborhoods safe, so in 2004, he hosted five public safety town halls across the city. These meetings gave friends and neighbors a chance to share ideas and ask questions about how to make our neighborhoods safer, and provided information about everything from fighting crime to being prepared for a man-made or natural disaster.

- **Protecting children from computer crimes.** In 2004, the City expanded the Seattle NW Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, recognized as one of the top-performing task forces in the nation protecting children from computer crimes. Seattle received a \$450,000 federal grant to support these efforts.
- **Expanding Amber Alert system.** The Amber Alert System was initiated for King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties
- Working with college students. In 2004, the North Police Precinct and several agencies, businesses, community groups, and the neighborhoods near the UW came together to hear student concerns and educate them about underage drinking laws and the Seattle City Noise Ordinance.
- Strengthening partnerships between police and community. The Southwest Precinct Police Station opened in March 2003, bringing police officers closer to the people they serve in Delridge, West Seattle, South Park and Georgetown.
- Reaching out to diverse communities. SPD is committed to the continued improvement of community relations. Recent events include producing a public safety video for Seattle's East African communities and sponsoring a "Day of Reconciliation" for the South Pacific Islander community.
- Expanding alcohol impact areas. In 2004, two new Alcohol Impact Areas were created in the University District and central Seattle. These two new areas account for most of the alcohol-related calls to the police and fire departments. Mandatory restrictions of alcohol sales in the Pioneer Square area took effect in the fall 2003.

"We've cleared the way for great new jobs and economic growth." Creating Jobs and Opportunities for All

- Clearing the logjam at Northgate. Mayor Greg Nickels and the City Council cleared the way for a potential \$100 million in public and private investments, new jobs and a better neighborhood environment. The agreement also creates greater citizen involvement in future planning.
- Changing City's relationship to University of Washington. Recognizing the citywide and regional benefit of the University, from the quality education it offers to the research that helps drive the tech economy, Mayor Nickels led the effort to end the 25-year-old lease lid in the U-District. This will unleash new investment in the University District and allow more affordable housing opportunities and public safety improvements.
- Supporting Rainier Valley businessess affected by light rail. Almost \$4 million has gone to 69 businesses impacted by light rail development. Of the businesses who received Community Development Fund assistance to relocate, 79 percent relocated within the Rainier Valley.
- **South Lake Union.** The City supported the growing life sciences and biotechnology research cluster in the South Lake Union neighborhood. Companies and institutes moving in or expanding into the South Lake Union neighborhood created more than 500 new jobs in 2004, and the neighborhood continued to grow with additional amenities, such as park improvements and new restaurant and service companies.
- **Creating jobs.** In 2002-2004, the Seattle Jobs Initiative placed more than 1,550 low-income individuals in permanent jobs with benefits at an average wage of more than \$10.30 an hour.
- **Keeping jobs.** Seattle saw a major payoff to some 2002 land-use legislation: Washington Mutual, one of the city's largest single employers, announced a purchase agreement that allows it to consolidate its headquarters in downtown while also expanding the Seattle Art Museum.
- **Promoting manufacturing and maritime industries.** In 2004, the City released the Mayor's Action Agenda for both industries, and implemented several strategies to support the thousands of family-wage jobs they provide. Strategies include establishing a permit liaison to ensure reliable and predictable permitting for companies looking to locate here, and to improve and expand their businesses. Through the Seattle First Initiative, the City also worked with industry groups and 200 individual businesses to inform them of available services, and to learn what services they need.



- Helping small businesses. The City established a small-business advocate to assist small- and medium-sized businesses with City permitting and regulatory processes. In 2003-2004, 36 business association projects received more than \$300,000 in Neighborhood Business District Grants. In-depth technical assistance was also provided to more than 200 Seattle businesses, more than 40 start-up and small business entrepreneurs received loans, and neighborhood business districts received help to cope with construction projects.
- Strengthening neighborhood businesses. To encourage investment in neighborhood businesses, the City funded 40 façade improvement projects and approved an additional 50 projects for construction worth more than \$637,500 in seven neighborhoods,

including Broadway, U-District and Rainier Valley in 2003-2004.

- Streamlining permits. The City cut red tape for entrepreneurs by streamlining construction permits, reducing wait-time to file and review permit applications, and establishing a one-stop Master Business License in partnership with the state.
- **Focusing on Southeast Seattle.** The City worked with community leaders in Southeast Seattle to create specific strategies for leveraging the incoming public investment in transportation and housing for the community. This strategy will determine priorities for housing and business development, infrastructure and parks improvements, education, and cultural affairs.
- Renewing Broadway. To help Broadway better serve its neighbors, the City formed a new business improvement area, funded winter lighting and pocket park improvements, helped provide cleaning and security services, and proposed land-use changes.
- Engaging Seattle's creative economy. In 2003 and 2004, invested in "civic partnerships" with 93 arts and cultural organizations, supporting 5,861 performances and events, employing 10,074 artists, serving a total audience of more than 2 million, and leveraging approximately \$17 in the community for every City dollar invested.
- **Promoting the film and music industries.** Thanks to the City's Film Incentives, the number of film permits issued from 2003 to 2004 increased more than 50 percent.
- Sustainable Business Initiative. Established the Sustainable Business Committee of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce to help businesses find ways to contribute to the City's environmental goals. A new guide will also help the maritime and manufacturing industries connect with City assistance for resource efficiency and pollution prevention.

Lifting the UW lease lid

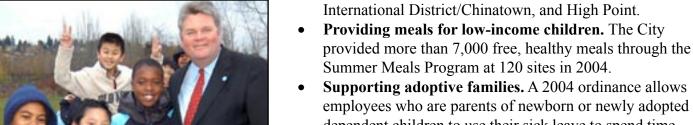
The Mayor often says that the worst limits are the ones we put on ourselves.

This was especially true near the University of Washington, which for years has had its growth restricted by laws limiting the amount of space it could lease in the community. By 2003, the UW was nearing the limit of the "lease lid" and would have been unable to lease any additional space close to campus. This containment policy put a strain on the University's ability to create new jobs or offer new services to students.

In 2004, the City removed the lease lid, thereby removing the barriers to investment by the University, this city's largest employer. Lifting the lease lid complemented Mayor Nickels' strategy to increase job opportunities and revitalize the Ave. With improvements made to the façades on the Ave, investments in social problems and crime, and other strategies planned for 2005, the City is making the University District a more attractive place for visitors and residents, employers and employees.

"Our goal is to make sure every person has a roof over their head." BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Working to end homelessness. In 2004, the City provided more than 400,000 bed nights for homeless people and moved 1,500 homeless households into transitional or permanent housing. New sites for two homeless shelters, one permanent and one cold-weather shelter on Lower Queen Anne Hill and Yesler, were also identified, and more than 1,000 households stayed in their homes through rent assistance, intervention, and eviction prevention.
- **Supporting children's education.** Mayor Nickels led the successful renewal of the Families and Education Levy in fall 2004, increased funding by \$4 million a year to support children and youth programs, especially in schools in Southeast and Southwest Seattle. The levy lays the groundwork for closing the kindergarten "preparation gap" in low-income families; continues support for effective drop-out prevention efforts for high-risk middle and high school students; and establishes programs to support effective parent involvement in children's education.
- **Helping families work.** About 2,700 Seattle households were enrolled in "Help for Working Families" which helps low- and moderate-income working families and individuals enroll in local, state and federal benefits, such as utility and food assistance, child care subsidies and medical coverage. More than 280 immigrant and refugee families were provided with education and job skills at the newly opened Family Support Center in the International District.
- **Helping neighborhoods.** In 2004, the Neighborhood Matching Fund awarded \$1.7 million to 121 community-based projects all over Seattle. The P-Patch program added four new gardens, bringing the total to 52 P-Patches serving more than 4,700 people throughout Seattle.
- Center City. The zoning changes for creating affordable housing downtown have begun, which will help craft vibrant new neighborhoods and preserve single-family housing in other neighborhoods.
- **Increasing affordable housing opportunities.** In 2002, the Mayor worked to secure passage of an \$86-million Housing Levy supporting affordable housing for more than 2,000 households. In 2003 and 2004, the City awarded \$32.8 million supporting development or preservation of more than 695 affordable rental units.
- **Helping families buy homes.** The City's homebuyer assistance program helped more than 50 families buy homes in Seattle, a 40 percent increase over the previous year. About 30 percent of the assisted homebuyers were families of color. A \$1.4 million investment of City funds leveraged more than \$8.1 million in private and other public dollars.
- **Sending kids to camp.** When the waiting list for summer day camp grew into the hundreds, the City was able to increase the number of summer day camp scholarships by 300, bringing the number of kids served to almost 500 in 2004.
- Improving parks and community centers. The City developed or improved 40 parks all over Seattle in direct response to neighborhood priorities, acquired 41 acres of new park land, and opened four new or



employees who are parents of newborn or newly adopted dependent children to use their sick leave to spend time with their children after the child's birth or adoption. The amendment also permits adoptive parents to use sick leave to cover absences required to satisfy legal or regulatory requirements for the adoption, prior to the adoption of the child.

expanded community centers — Jefferson, Magnuson,

- In 2002, Mayor Nickels created 684-CITY, a one-stop, easy-to-remember phone number for service requests and complaints about City government. Since then, an online system has been added to take requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Several other web-based services have also been added, such as paying utility bills, renewing business licenses and issuing construction permits. Neighborhood Service Centers are now open longer and on weekends.
- Widening the window on government.

 The Seattle Channel continues to expand its offerings. In addition to awardwinning public-interest programs and City Council meetings, viewers can now watch board meetings for the Popular Monorail Authority, Sound Transit, the Port of Seattle, Public Health Seattle & King County, and the Seattle Public Library.
- Encouraging arts enrichment. Invested in arts training programs for middle- and high-school students, targeting at-risk, underserved and diverse youth, serving an estimated 1,321 students.
- Preparing youth for work. In 2004, more than 300 low-income youth participated in the Seattle Youth Employment Program, which provides academic support, teaches job skills and matches participants with available work opportunities.
- Meeting seniors' needs. In 2004, the City provided 805 seniors with monthly market baskets with fresh produce, and vouchers to 900 seniors to use at local farmers' markets. By providing training and support to their unpaid family caregivers, more than 8,800 older and disabled adults in Seattle and King County are able to remain in their own homes. The Senior Services Senior Shuttle program was also expanded to serve 800 seniors and disabled people, up from 700 in 2003.
- Identifying vulnerable elders. In 2004, the City trained 1,000 community

Race and Social Justice Initiative

Seattle is becoming an increasingly diverse city, which gives us much to celebrate, but also challenges us to ensure that all communities are being effectively served and protected by City government.

Mayor Nickels launched the "Race and Social Justice Initiative" in 2003 as a citywide effort to make sure that employees and the community recognize that our diversity is a major asset, to eliminate attitudes, practices, and policies that result in racial disproportionality, and transform our citizen engagement processes so that all cultures are involved.

Since then, the City has begun:

- Helping neighborhood projects. The Department of Neighborhoods dedicated some of the Neighborhood Matching
 Fund grants to projects aimed at improving race relations
 and promoting social justice. The City gave \$759,015 to 69
 programs, and the communities matched with \$1.2 million of
 their own.
- Supporting contractors. The City provided help to small and disadvantaged construction contractors through the Contractors' Development and Competitiveness Center.
- Improving police-community relations. To reduce the potential for racial profiling, the City outfitted 80 patrol cars with video cameras, giving SPD the ability to record patrol stops, providing more accountability and safety for residents and officers. Police advisory councils that represent the city's main ethnic communities also help the department and the communities come together.
- Pursuing settlements for citizens. On behalf of people who
 filed charges alleging discrimination in housing, employment
 and public places, the City negotiated the highest monetary
 settlement total in recent history \$88,076. The City also
 procured other benefits fro victims, such as jobs or training.
- Recognizing gay marriages. Mayor Greg Nickels signed an executive order in March 2003 that gave everyone who works for Seattle city government and is married equal rights, regardless of whether they are straight or gay. Ordinances were passed to ensure all people would receive equal rights and benefits, regardless of sexual orientation.
- Accepting the Matricula Consular. In 2003, Mayor Nickels signed an executive order recognizing the Mexican Consular Identification Card, or Matricula Consular, as a form of identification and ordering all City departments and agencies to recognize the card as an acceptable form of identification for people seeking City services.
- Providing services to immigrant and refugee communities.
 A variety of services are targeted at our newest communities, including citizenship services, parenting classes, senior lunch programs and case management, public safety, water quality, and hazardous waste.
- Connecting to technology. The City supports sets up computer centers and classes for many community groups throughout the city.

"gatekeepers," such as bank tellers, meter-readers, and firefighters, to identify frail, isolated and vulnerable elders who may be victims of abuse or neglect and are in need of services.

- Bringing technology to our neighborhoods. Since 2002, the city's Technology Matching Fund has awarded \$341,530 to community organizations to support innovative projects, such as providing residents with access to computers, the Internet and other technologies, and increasing residents' use of technology for civic engagement and participation. In addition, in 2004 Seattle provided high-speed Internet service to 25 new community-access sites. We now reach more than 500 computers at public and nonprofit sites across the city, as well as 767 computers in City libraries.
- Opening libraries all over Seattle. Nearly 26,000 people attended the 2004 opening of the new Central Library. In 2004, the Library also opened expanded, new or renovated branches in Beacon Hill, Columbia, Green Lake, High Point, northeast Seattle, Rainier Beach and West Seattle, with many more openings under way for 2005. Patron counts, circulation and number of library cards issued are up at every branch; nearly 14,000 children participated in the Summer Reading Program, reading 75,519 books.
- **Expanding Discovery Park.** In 2004, we acquired the historic West Point Lighthouse to augment Discovery Park and provide another space for environmental programs. The City will also be adding the 23-acre Capehart housing site to this 534-acre park.
- Cleaning up Green Lake. In 2004, Green Lake's algae bloom problems were stopped after an extensive alum treatment, making it safe for swimming and all "wet water" activities. The treatment will keep Green Lake clean and safe for 10 years or more.
- **Keeping neighborhoods clean.** In 2002, launched Clean and Green Seattle to bring City workers and neighbors together to clean up parks and streets. In 2003 and 2004, the City conducted 26 neighborhood cleanups, involving more than 5,000 volunteers, collecting more than 38 tons of litter, using more than 10 tons of asphalt to fill neighborhood potholes and repairing nearly 3,000 streetlights.
- **Protecting water quality.** The Cedar Water Treatment Facility, the largest of its kind in the nation, was built to provide safer, better-tasting water to nearly a million people throughout King County. The city also completed a \$10-million drainage project a year ahead of schedule, built three new storm-water detention ponds at the Jackson Park Golf Course that reduced storm water runoff, flooding and erosion, and improved wildlife habitat in the north branch of Thornton Creek, helping fish and downstream property owners.
- Protecting Thornton Creek. In 2004, the City initiated work on the Channel at Thornton Creek, located
 in the south parking lot of Northgate Mall. The project is part of a broader effort to integrate open space
 and pedestrian pathways, connecting the retail, housing, and other civic improvements planned for this
 neighborhood.
- **Securing reservoirs.** In 2002, the Mayor proposed burying seven reservoirs throughout the city to provide open space, improve water quality and enhance security for the community's water supply. In 2004, the Lincoln Reservoir on Capitol Hill was buried and landscaping was begun. Nearby property owners also learned how to report suspicious activity near water facilities.
- **Reducing waste.** The City took several steps to reduce waste: mandated recycling to boost Seattle's recycling rate to 60 percent; provided condo and apartment dwellers with reusable polyethylene recycling bags making it easier to recycle; and made biweekly residential yard waste service available year-round.
- **Expanding natural drainage systems.** In 2004, Seattle received an "Innovations in American Government Award" and \$100,000 from Harvard University to expand our natural-drainage program. Seattle has developed five natural drainage projects, which reduce flooding, improve water quality, provide sidewalks, calm traffic and enhance neighborhood landscaping.
- **Restoring our waters.** The Mayor's "Restore Our Waters" program ensures City government makes smart investments in aquatic projects and encourages private property owners along shorelines to make improvements that will protect and enhance Seattle's bodies of water.